

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

1. – 4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A shutter curtain apparatus lifting prevention structure comprising:

a shutter curtain formed by connecting a plurality of slats via an interlock portion in the vertical direction, wherein the shutter curtain includes a bottom plate;

guide rails having a top end and a bottom end standing on both sides of an opening of the construction, by which situated opposing each other so that both edges of said shutter curtain being are guided for ascending and descending, to thereby open and close an opening of the construction allowing the opening an closing of the shutter curtain over the opening, wherein an exterior side is the side of the shutter curtain facing the opening and the interior side is the side opposite the exterior side;

a connection portion which connects the bottom plate to one of the plurality of slats in a load-bearing manner; and

a cutout recess being integrally formed at the guide groove of each guide rail having an engaging portion, said cutout recess being formed by horizontally cutting out the interior side plane portion of the front face located above and in the vicinity of the floor surface a horizontal cut-out of a bottom end interior side plane portion of at least one of the guide rails, the cutout recess positioned such that when a the bottom plate of the shutter curtain kept in a shut state is lifted while the shutter curtain is in a shut state, a the connection portion of the bottom plate and the slat, which is opposed to the cutout recess is made engaged by the engaging portion defined by the cutout recess, thus in a manner that preventing prevents further lifting of the shutter curtain;

said apparatus further comprising a deformable cover being provided at the cutout recess of the guide rail allowing the closing the cutout recess, such that when the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state and the bottom plate is attempted to be lifted from the exterior side, the

connection portion presses upon and thereby deforms the cover for the cutout recess to thereby allow the connection portion to be engaged with the engagement portion.

6. (currently amended) A shutter curtain apparatus ~~lifting prevention structure~~ comprising:

a shutter curtain formed by connecting a plurality of slats via an interlock portion in the vertical direction, wherein the shutter curtain includes a bottom plate;

guide rails having a top end and a bottom end standing on both sides of an opening ~~of the construction, by which~~ situated opposing each other so that both edges of said shutter curtain ~~being~~ are guided for ascending and descending, to thereby open and close an opening of the construction allowing the opening and closing of the shutter curtain over the opening, wherein an exterior side is the side of the shutter curtain facing the opening and the interior side is the side opposite the exterior side;

a connection portion which connects the bottom plate to one of the plurality of slats in a load-bearing manner;

a guide groove of the guide rail being formed between ~~the~~ an interior side plane portion and an exterior side plane portion of each guide rail; and

an interior side cutout recess being formed on the interior side plane portion, said interior side cutout recess having an engagement portion located at a position higher than the connection portion of a bottom plate and the slat of the shutter curtain kept in a fully closed state, such that when the bottom plate ~~of the shutter curtain kept in a fully closed state~~ is lifted from the exterior side while the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state, the bottom plate inclines and the connection portion is ~~thereby caused to be~~ engaged by the engaging portion ~~of the interior side cutout recess,~~ in a manner that preventing prevents further lifting of the shutter curtain and wherein the engagement portion does not project into the guide groove;

said apparatus further comprising a deformable cover being provided at the cutout recess of the guide rail allowing the closing the cutout recess, such that when the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state and the bottom plate is attempted to be lifted from the exterior side, the connection portion presses upon and thereby deforms the cover for the cutout recess to thereby allow the connection portion to be engaged with the engagement portion.

7. (currently amended) The ~~structure~~ apparatus of claim 6, said structure further comprising an exterior side cutout recess being formed on the exterior side plane portion so as to be opposed to the bottom plate ~~of when the shutter curtain kept is~~ in a fully closed state, such that when the bottom plate ~~of the shutter curtain kept in a fully closed state~~ is lifted from the exterior side while the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state, the bottom plate inclines with the lower end side thereof moving toward the exterior side via the exterior side cutout recess, and the connection portion is thereby caused to be engaged with the engagement portion of the interior side cutout recess, thus preventing further lifting of the shutter curtain.

8. (currently amended) A shutter curtain apparatus ~~lifting prevention structure~~ comprising:

a shutter curtain formed by connecting a plurality of slats via an interlock portion in the vertical direction, wherein the shutter curtain includes a bottom plate;

guide rails having a top end and a bottom end standing on both sides of an opening ~~of the construction, by which~~ situated opposing each other so that both edges of said shutter curtain ~~being~~ are guided for ascending and descending, ~~to thereby open and close an opening of the construction~~ allowing the opening and closing of the shutter curtain over the opening, wherein an exterior side is the side of the shutter curtain facing the opening and the interior side is the side opposite the exterior side;

a connection portion which connects the bottom plate to one of the plurality of slats in a load-bearing manner;

a guide groove of the guide rail being formed between the interior side plane portion and exterior side plane portion of each guide rail;

an inner space of the guide rail being defined by the guide groove for receiving an edge portion of the shutter curtain, an interior side space of the guide groove, and an exterior side space of the guide groove;

an intra-rail hook member being provided in the interior side space of the inner space of the guide rail, said intra-rail hook member having an engaging portion located at a position higher than the position of the connection portion ~~of the bottom plate and slat of when~~ the shutter curtain ~~kept is~~ in a fully closed state; and

an interior side cutout recess being formed on the interior side plane portion of the guide rail, said interior side cutout recess containing a portion opposed to the engaging portion of the intra-rail hook member, such that when the bottom plate of the shutter curtain kept in a fully closed state is lifted from the exterior side, the bottom plate inclines and the connection portion is thereby caused to be engaged by the engaging portion of the intra-rail hook member, ~~thus preventing in a manner that prevents further~~ lifting of the shutter curtain;

said apparatus further comprising a deformable cover being provided at the cutout recess of the guide rail allowing the closing the cutout recess, such that when the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state and the bottom plate is attempted to be lifted from the exterior side, the connection portion presses upon and thereby deforms the cover for the cutout recess to thereby allow the connection portion to be engaged by the engagement portion.

9. (currently amended) The ~~structure~~ apparatus of claim 8, said structure further comprising an exterior side cutout recess being formed on the exterior side plane portion of the guide rail, said exterior side cutout recess containing a portion opposed to the bottom plate ~~of~~ when the shutter curtain ~~kept is~~ is in a fully closed state, such that when the bottom plate ~~of the shutter curtain kept in a fully closed state~~ is lifted from the exterior side and the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state, the bottom plate inclines with the lower end side thereof moving toward the exterior side via the exterior side cutout recess, and the connection portion is thereby caused to be engaged by the engagement portion, thus preventing further lifting of the shutter curtain.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The ~~structure~~ apparatus of claim 7, said structure further comprising ~~an interior side deformable cover being provided at the interior side cutout recess of the guide rail for closing the interior side cutout recess and an exterior side deformable cover being provided at the exterior side cutout recess of the guide rail for closing the exterior side cutout recess, such that when the bottom plate of the shutter curtain kept in a state of fully closed~~ is lifted from the

exterior side and the shutter curtain is in a fully closed state, the lower end side of the bottom plate moves toward the exterior side while pressing, and thereby deforming, the exterior side cover and the bottom plate consequently inclines, so that the connection portion presses, and thereby deforms, the cover of the interior side cutout recess, ~~as a result of which~~ resulting in the connection portion ~~is caused to be~~ being engaged by with the engagement portion.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A shutter curtain apparatus ~~lifting prevention structure~~ comprising:

a shutter curtain being comprised of a plurality of curtain pieces connected in a bendable manner;

guide rails along which the edges of the shutter curtain ~~being~~ are guided for ascending and descending along the guide rails to thereby open and close an opening section of the shutter curtain; and

hardware being provided on the inner or outer side of the guide rail, said hardware being provided with an engagement prong formed at least on the interior side lateral wall of said hardware so as not to project into the guide groove[[,]] and positioned such that when the shutter curtain is lifted from the lower surface of the bottom plate while the shutter ~~is kept shut~~ is in a closed state, ~~pressing by the bent curtain pieces which are bent in association with the lifting~~ causes the interior or exterior side lateral wall of the guide rail to expand, thus causing the curtain piece to be engaged by the engaging prong in a manner that prevents further lifting of the shutter curtain.

16. (currently amended) The ~~structure~~ apparatus of claim 15, wherein the curtain piece to be engaged by the engagement prong of the hardware is an interlock portion connecting the slat.

17. – 20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The ~~structure~~ apparatus of claim 9, said structure further comprising an ~~interior side deformable cover being provided at the interior side cutout recess of the guide rail for closing the interior side cutout recess and~~ an exterior side deformable cover being provided at the exterior side cutout recess of the guide rail for closing the exterior side cutout recess, such that when the bottom plate ~~of the shutter curtain kept in a state of fully closed~~ is lifted from the exterior side ~~and the shutter curtain is fully closed~~, the lower end side of the bottom plate moves toward the exterior side while pressing, and thereby deforming, the exterior side cover and the bottom plate consequently inclines, so that the connection portion presses, and thereby deforms, the cover of the interior side cutout recess, as a result of which the connection portion is ~~caused to be engaged by~~ with the engagement portion.

22. (cancelled)

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